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it should furnish a reasonably complete citation of the authorities which establish those principles. In these days of exhaustive digests the peculiar contribution of a text-book to the advancement of legal knowledge is found in its exposition of principles and criticism of decisions rather than in its collection of cases. Mr. Alderson has made a very satisfactory collection of cases. But instead of developing his own statement of the underlying principles, he has endeavored to describe them by combining and arranging the short points of the cases cited, for the most part without explanation, criticism, or dissent on his part as to the value of each decision. The result is that a reader not already familiar with the subject has difficulty at times in following the development of the thought or even the meaning of the writer. Thus in § 173 one reads: "A receiver appointed in one state does not take title to property in another. In a statutory proceeding by the attorney-general for the dissolution of a corporation, . . . it was held that the receiver became invested with the title to all the corporation's property, wherever situated, whether in or without the state: and this though the statute did not so provide." These two statements as they stand are in apparent conflict, and the necessary explanation, namely, that in the second case the receiver was not an ordinary receiver, but a statutory receiver, a sort of universal successor to the defunct corporation, is not supplied by the author. Again, in § 262, in treating of the liability of a succeeding receiver on contracts of his predecessor, the author states: ". . . contracts made by a preceding receiver impose no legal duty or obligation upon his successor, and damages cannot be recovered at law against the succeeding receiver for refusing to perform the contracts of his predecessor." Five lines further on he says: "As a general proposition it may be asserted that a succeeding receiver is bound by the contracts of his predecessor." Possibly he means is bound *in equity* in the sense that the court will order him to perform such contracts, but he does not say so nor imply it by the context.

Furthermore, the making of a separate statement in the text for each case cited in the footnotes, which is the prevailing practice in this work, necessarily leads to exasperating repetition. Examples are found in §§ 42, 48, and in § 169. It is not unjust to say that the book contains many such instances of unnecessary repetition and of apparently conflicting statements. In fairness to Mr. Alderson, however, we note that the present work is in fact a revision and enlargement of "Beach on Receivers," rather than a new treatise, even adopting for the most part the exact language and citations of Beach; and the faults to which attention has been called are largely those found in the earlier work, though they are aggravated by the attempt of the present author to graft a mass of new authorities upon the old without changing the structure of the whole.

Another prominent fault is the lack of original discussion of the authorities. Very infrequently does the author express any opinion whatever upon the state of the law. He does, however, heartily condemn the appointing of the so-called "friendly receiver," in which, we believe, he is doing good service to the administration of justice. The last chapter of the book, which contains in the author's own words a clear and convenient summary of the whole field of receivership proceedings, is in many respects the best. It is to be regretted that the same clear, original statement does not extend throughout the work. Still, this text-book, while it does not contain the final statement of the law of receivership, is a useful and full collection of authorities, intelligibly arranged and adequately indexed, and as such will doubtless prove of service to the profession.

H. LEB. S.

DUNLAP'S ELEMENTARY LAW. By M. E. Dunlap. Third Edition. Revised by T. F. Chaplin. St. Louis: The F. H. Thomas Law Book Co. 1905. pp. v, 600. 8vo.

There is grave doubt in the minds of the teaching fraternity of the legal profession as to whether any completely satisfactory book on elementary law, embodying the general principles, rules, and definitions of all its branches,

can be written. In Mr. Dunlap's work, however, the present edition of which is a book of six hundred pages, with an elaborate index, we find an attempt at this difficult goal. The volume includes an abridgment of Blackstone's Commentaries, of Chitty on Pleading, Greenleaf on Evidence, and Story on Equity Jurisprudence. In addition there are separate discussions in a brief and concise form of the following subjects: Code Pleading, Contracts, Commercial Paper, Sales, Agency, Partnership, Bailments, Corporations, Domestic Relations, Torts, and Administration. Real Property is treated in an abridgment of Blackstone's second volume, to which many notes bearing on the later development of the law have been added.

The work's chief claim to attention lies in its serviceability to students who are preparing to take bar examinations in the various states. Graduates of law schools generally, and especially those holding a degree from a school where the case system is in use, know how important it is to review the subjects upon which the examinations for admission to the bar are based; and they have learnt from personal experience how well-nigh impossible it is to find a book treating the various topics of the law in a small and yet comprehensive compass. This new edition of Dunlap's *Elementary Law* more nearly satisfies the demand for such a manual than any that has come to our attention. Its adaptation to the purpose so far as the number of subjects treated is concerned, may be judged from an inspection of the requirements for the practice of law made in most of the states. In Texas, for example, the candidate for admission to the bar is expected to manifest familiarity with the following subjects: first, the elements of common law, and more particularly volumes one, two, and three of Blackstone's Commentaries; second, real property; third, contracts, and, under this division, the elements of contracts, sales, bills and notes, carriers, partnerships, corporations and agency; fourth, torts; fifth, equity jurisprudence; sixth, pleading, practice, and evidence; seventh, domestic relations and administration of decedents' estates; eighth, constitutional and statutory law; and ninth, criminal law, particularly the fourth volume of Blackstone. Inasmuch as the questions asked in Texas range over as wide a field as those propounded in other jurisdictions, Mr. Dunlap's Abridgment seems to cover satisfactorily the scope of a bar examination. The substantive matter of the book is also of good quality: the abridgments of the standard works are made with care; and the original treatises on other branches of the law set forth clearly, concisely, and correctly the leading principles which it is important to have in mind.

GAI INSTITUTIONES, or Institutes of Roman Law by Gaius. With a Translation and Commentary by the late Edward Poste. Fourth Edition, revised and enlarged by E. A. Whittuck. With an historical introduction by A. H. J. Greenidge. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1904. pp. lv, 668. 8vo.

Anyone who uses the translation and commentary of the late Edward Poste on the Institutes of Roman Law by Gaius will agree that the words of the Vice-Chancellor of his University, *Omnium quos cognovi, doctissimus*, were deservedly applied. The present edition of the work, which is its fourth, is by E. A. Whittuck, who has revised the translation and commentary and made other changes. Chief among the differences between this and preceding editions is the abridgment of those portions of the commentary which had reference to analytic jurisprudence. This has been done for the purpose of rendering the commentary less difficult to students, and in the belief that the general theory of the law might better be studied in other treatises. In consequence, the Preliminary Definitions are omitted, and in their place has been inserted an Historical Introduction to Gaius, of some fifty pages, by Dr. Greenidge, an authority on Roman Constitutional history. In this introduction are considered the sources and development of Roman law, showing its gradual unification in succeeding epochs: first, the period in which the customs of the clans merged